



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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SPECTRA TO LOWER BASIC MONTHLY TELEPHONE RATES UNDER PRICE CAP FILING

JEFFERSON CITY--Spectra Communications Group, LLC d/b/a CenturyTel will lower the basic monthly telephone rates of its customers under price cap filings that take effect on September 1, 2005. In addition, the filings call for a reduction in the access rates that long-distance carriers pay to Spectra for access to the Spectra telephone network to complete a long-distance call. The filings include increases, of up to five percent, on a number of nonbasic telephone services including customer calling services (such as call forwarding and call waiting), directory listings, operator and directory services and toll calling plans.

Under the Spectra filings, residential basic monthly telephone rates will drop by between 17 cents and 21 cents a month depending on the customer's rate group. Current residential basic monthly telephone rates range from \$7.80 a month to \$9.76 a month depending on the rate group. For business customers, rates will drop by between 30 cents and 38 cents a month depending on the customer's rate group. Current business basic monthly telephone rates range from \$14.15 a month to \$18.06 a month depending on the rate group. These reductions reflect a change in the consumer price index for telecommunications services.

A 1996 state law gives price cap telecommunications companies such as Spectra the ability to adjust rates with limited Commission oversight.

Spectra provides telecommunications service to approximately 107 exchanges in Missouri.